



News Release

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South King County hospital: MultiCare's Covington plan receives approval

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has approved MultiCare Health System's request to build a new 58-bed acute care hospital in Covington, King County.

The facility will improve access and meet South King County residents' needs for hospital services. The hospital is expected to create 180 new family-wage jobs within the next five years.

The department found a clear need for additional hospital beds in Southeast King County's communities. The decision to approve MultiCare's request followed a review of three very competitive hospital proposals in that part of King County. In addition to MultiCare's request, Auburn Regional Medical Center asked to add 70 new beds to its existing 162-bed hospital and Valley Medical Center applied to add 60 new beds to its existing 303-bed hospital. The projected bed need for Southeast King County communities doesn't support approval of more than one of these projects.

After careful and thorough analysis of all three proposals, the department concluded that MultiCare's application best met all the standards for a project of this type.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at http://www.doh.wa.gov for <i>a healthy dose of information</i> .
